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**NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC ASSUMES STEWARDSHIP
OF JASON FOUNDATION FOR EDUCATION**

WASHINGTON (July 19, 2005)—The National Geographic Society and the JASON Foundation for Education (JFE) today announced that they have completed a reorganization in which the Society has assumed full stewardship of the JASON Foundation for Education. Under the reorganization, the JFE becomes a nonprofit subsidiary of the National Geographic Society.

All JASON Foundation for Education programs will proceed uninterrupted, including the “JASON Expedition: Mysteries of Earth and Mars” curriculum and this month’s online expedition with JFE founder and National Geographic Explorer-in-Residence Robert Ballard to the Lost City in the mid-Atlantic ridge, which will explore a hydrothermal vent system. For students to follow along the Lost City Adventure during the school year, JASON is now developing a corresponding standards-based science curriculum, “JASON Adventure: Lost City Hydrothermal Vents,” which will be available in September. Professional development activities such as the JASON Summer Institute expedition training to California and Arizona from July 24 to Aug. 1, 2005, and the next semester of JASON Academy online science and math courses, beginning October 2005, will also continue as planned.

“National Geographic has had a commitment to the JASON Project since its earliest days, and we are delighted to welcome it under our umbrella,” said Terry Garcia, National Geographic’s executive vice president of mission programs. “Its work embodies many of our own mission aspirations — to increase geographic knowledge, encourage conservation and nurture and educate the next generation of scientists and explorers.”

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“Our strengthened relationship with the National Geographic Society will allow JASON to grow by expanding into more classrooms, providing professional development opportunities to more teachers and developing new classroom technologies,” said Caleb M. Schutz, president of the JASON Foundation for Education. “With our treasured partnerships with government agencies, private corporations and nonprofit organizations, JASON will continue to broaden our reach in ways we couldn’t have on our own.”

“The JASON Project is an ideal fit for National Geographic. We’ve been partners for over 16 years, using expeditions around the world to excite students about science and math,” said Ballard. “Now we have a strengthened platform to launch students into more learning adventures. Through broadband and developing technologies, we want students to feel the thrill of scientific discovery as it’s happening.”

As part of the agreement, the current JFE board has been dissolved and a new board is to be appointed. Schutz will remain president of JFE, reporting to the new board as well as to Terry Garcia. The foundation will continue to operate out of its offices in Virginia and Massachusetts. Teachers, students and parents will continue to interact with the foundation online at www.jason.org.

About National Geographic

Founded in 1888, the National Geographic Society is one of the largest nonprofit scientific and educational organizations in the world. It reaches more than 285 million people worldwide each month through its official journal, National Geographic, and its four other magazines; the National Geographic Channel; television documentaries; radio programs; films; books; videos and DVDs; maps; and interactive media. National Geographic has funded more than 8,000 scientific research projects and supports an education program combating geographic illiteracy. For more information, log on to nationalgeographic.com; AOL Keyword: NatGeo.

About JASON Foundation for Education

The JASON Foundation for Education is a nonprofit subsidiary of the National Geographic Society, dedicated to providing experience-based science curricula and professional development for grades 4-8. Combining technology-rich tools, multimedia and an inquiry-based approach to learning with standards-based content, JASON inspires students and teachers to become lifelong learners in science and mathematics through active participation in real scientific expeditions around the world. For more information, log onto www.jason.org.